

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, your light is on.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I won't take the full five minutes. Members of the Legislature, the only reason I'm dealing with this issue is because Senator Witek said that she's going to try to offer some language at some point, or maybe she didn't mean she would offer it, that would deal with these items that she talked about and I was hoping that with this brief exchange, if and when she offers these suggestions, we can dispose of them without taking much time. And if she would offer it as an amendment to what Senator Wehrbein is giving to us I hope we would defeat it. This amendment is going to do nothing other than give us information and there is no harm in that, but remember you cannot prove a negative. And I'm going to give Senator Witek the benefit of a little bit of instruction that they give you in philosophy, and really they don't, but, Senator Witek, if we had eaten a thousand oranges and each one is acidic, we can make a definite statement about those thousand oranges that we had sampled. But if we see another item which is shaped the same way, which smells the same way, which feels the same way, we can make a generalization about objects of that kind but we cannot state authoritatively what this one that we have not tasted will taste like. We don't know that it's acidic. We don't know that it's sweet. We don't know anything about it until we experience it through our senses. So we can see it, we can feel it, we can weigh it, we can smell it, but we don't know what it tastes like until we actually taste it. So when we get into areas that are full of more variables than what we find with a piece of fruit, there is no way in the world we could realistically or practically tell anybody to say, look at the people who have come to prison and tell us how much money is saved to society by them being in prison instead of being on the outside. I read about an old geezer, he's probably an old geezer now 'cause he's been out of jail 40 years, he was convicted of second degree murder, he escaped and he reared children, he worked jobs, he never committed another crime, but he finally got caught and returned to prison up in Washington or Oregon or some place in that part of the country which is very backward anyway and they're going to have a meeting of their board that will determine if he serves any more time and, if so, how much. So if you have here a person who committed murder, who escaped and didn't commit any other kind of crime, how are you going to be able to say how much money is saved to society if you spend twenty-something thousand dollars on each one of